

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/690,500

Examiner

Mohammad M. Ali

Applicant(s)

KIM ET AL.

Art Unit

3744

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed 12/30/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3,6-15,19 and 21.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Michael J. Badagliacca on 04/21/06. The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 1, 6 and 15 are amended as follows:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A refrigerator, comprising:

a cabinet defining a storage compartment therein;

a machine room defined at a top of the cabinet;

a main intake vent and a main exhaust vent, located at an upper surface of the machine room so as to allow air to circulate through the machine room; and

a noise buffering plate, to divide the machine room into a front chamber and a rear chamber, having a plurality of at least one vent hole holes to allow air flow between the front chamber and the rear chamber,

wherein the vent holes are formed through the noise buffering plate such that groups of the vent holes are formed respectively at each side of the noise buffering plate so as to correspond to main intake vent and the main exhaust vent.

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6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The refrigerator according to claim 3~~ A refrigerator, comprising:
a cabinet defining a storage compartment therein;
a machine room defined at a top of the cabinet;
a main intake vent and a main exhaust vent, located at an upper surface of the machine room so as to allow air to circulate through the machine room; and
a noise buffering plate, to divide the machine room into a front chamber and a rear chamber, having at least one vent hole to allow air flow between the front chamber and the rear chamber,

wherein the front chamber further comprises a partition plate to divide the front chamber into a front intake chamber and a front exhaust chamber.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A refrigerator, comprising:
a cabinet defining a storage compartment therein; and
a machine room, comprising;
a compressor,
a condenser,
a cool air circulation fan, and
a main intake vent and a main exhaust vent to allow air to circulate through the machine room, and
a noise buffering plate,
the noise buffering plate positioned in the machine room to divide the machine room into a front chamber and a rear chamber and to dampen operational noise

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from the compressor, condenser, and air circulation fan, having ~~at least one vent hole~~ holes to allow air flow between the front chamber and the rear chamber, wherein the vent holes are formed through the noise buffering plate such that groups of the vent holes are formed respectively at each side of the noise buffering plate so as to correspond to main intake vent and the main exhaust vent.

Cancelled claims 5, 17, and 21 from further consideration and change numeral "4" ----- to numeral ----1----- for claim 8 , change numeral "17"-----to numeral -----15----- for claim 19 and change numeral "4" -----to numeral-----1 for claim 21.

Allowable Subject Matter

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Claims 1, 6, 12 and 15 are allowable because the prior art of record fails to disclose or suggest or teach the recited the vent holes are formed through the noise buffering plate such that groups of the vent holes are formed respectively at each side of the noise buffering plate so as to correspond to main intake vent and the main exhaust vent (see claim 1, 12 and 15); wherein the front chamber further comprises a partition plate to divide the front chamber into a front intake chamber and a front exhaust chamber (see claim 6).

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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mohammad M. Ali whose telephone number is (571) 272-4806. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Cheryl Tyler can be reached on (571) 272-4834. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


MOHAMMAD M. ALI
PRIMARY EXAMINER